

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Office Action of September 10, 2003 has been received and contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1, 5, 7, and 11-26 are currently pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 7, 11, 13-14, 18-21, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Higginbotham et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,896,575) in view of Koizumi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,177,917); rejected claims 6, 12, 15-17, 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Higginbotham et al. in view of Koizumi et al. and further in view of Jahagirdar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,125,286). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "an operator for operating the first and second display means having 'm' scan electrode lines connecting the 'k' scan electrodes in the first display means and the 'm-k' scan electrodes in the second display means, and third 'n' signal electrode lines connected to the first signal electrodes and the second signal electrodes, respectively; and..." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claim 5, which depends therefrom, are allowable over the cited references. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that since Jahagirdar et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of Higginbotham et al. and Koizumi et al., claim 6 is also allowable.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states on page 3, "However, Koizumi et al. teach a method of driving a first liquid crystal display (LCD) portion 11... and second LCD portion 12 driven by second signal electrode..."

Applicant respectfully submits that, as stated by the Examiner, Koizumi et al. discloses a method of driving a liquid crystal display having two display portions. Applicant further respectfully submits that, unlike Koizumi et al., the present invention has at least two display means controlled by one operator as claimed in claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that, in

order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the prior art references when combined must at least teach or suggest all the claim elements.

Claims 7 and 11 are allowable over the cited references in that claims 7 and 11 recite a combination of elements including, for example, “an operator for operating the first and second display means having ‘m’ signal electrode lines connecting the ‘k’ signal electrodes in the first display means and the ‘m-k’ signal electrodes in the second display means, and third ‘n’ scan electrode lines connected to the first scan electrodes and the second scan electrodes, respectively; and...” For at least the similar reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, none of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 7 and 11 are allowable over the cited references. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that since Jahagirdar et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of Higginbotham et al. and Koizumi et al., claim 12 is also allowable.

Claims 13-14 and 18-19 are allowable over the cited references in that claims 13-14 and 18-19 recite a combination of elements including, for example, “an operator for operating the first and second liquid crystal displays having a plurality of scan electrode lines connected to the first and second scan electrodes, and a plurality of signal electrode lines connected to the first signal electrodes and the second signal electrodes, respectively.” For at least the similar reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, none of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 13-14 and 18-19 are allowable over the cited references. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that since Jahagirdar et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of Higginbotham et al. and Koizumi et al., claims 15-17 are also allowable.

Claims 20-21 and 25-26 are allowable over the cited references in that claims 20-21 and 25-26 recite a combination of elements including, for example, “an operator for operating the first and second liquid crystal displays having a plurality of signal electrode lines connected to the first and second signal electrodes, and a plurality of scan electrode lines connected to the first scan electrodes and the second scan electrodes, respectively.” For at least the similar reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, none of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully

submits that claims 20-21 and 25-26 are allowable over the cited references. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that since Jahagirdar et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of Higginbotham et al. and Koizumi et al., claims 22-24 are also allowable.

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number (202) 496 - 7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Rebecca Goldman Rudich
Registration No.: 41,786
MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 496-7500
Attorney for Applicant